

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 542 - SB 652

March 23, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires all orders, pleadings, discoveries, notices, demands, and other formal papers in any proceeding for the court to make a custody determination regarding a minor child to be sent to the parties by registered mail. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will develop a "Waiver of Registered Mailings" form to be used by the courts with jurisdiction over this matter.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$298,200

Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Federal Expenditures - \$201,800

Assumptions:

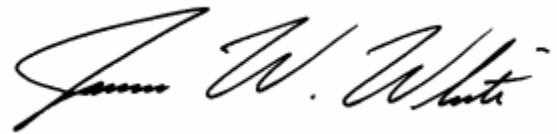
- According to AOC, the development of a form for waiver of the registered mail requirement will not result in a significant increase in expenditures.
- The provisions of the bill will not result in a significant impact to the state and local court system. Any orders required to be sent registered mail by the clerk's office will be minimal and will not result in a significant increase in expenditures.
- According to the Department of Children's Services, 10,000 custody and non-custody cases yearly that will be impacted by the bill.
- Each case will have approximately five notices per year including preliminary hearing, ratification, adjudication/disposition, six month review and annual permanency hearing.
- It is estimated that each certified and registered item costs approximately \$10 resulting in an increase in expenditures of \$500,000 (10,000 x 5 x \$10).
- Of the total increase of \$500,000, seven percent (\$35,000) will be Title IV-E Federal funds; 45 percent (\$225,000) will be through TennCare; and \$240,000 in state funds.

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- Of the TennCare funds, \$58,189.50 is state funds at a 25.862 percent match rate and \$166,810.50 is federal funds at a 74.138 percent match rate.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml